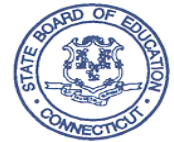




STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



TO: 2011 Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Sponsors

FROM: Cheryl Resha, Education Manager
Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education

DATE: June 27, 2011

SUBJECT: **Operational Memorandum #07-11 – SFSP
Eligibility of Children Evacuated from Japan and Bahrain**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide guidance on determining eligibility of children whose families have been moved to the United States in the wake of the recent natural disasters (earthquakes and tsunami) in Japan and political unrest in Bahrain. This memorandum also provides guidance on providing free or reduced price benefits to the host families of these students, if applicable.

Determining Eligibility for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

Sponsors in the SFSP that require eligibility information can accept certification of the child's homeless status from the agency that assisted with the evacuation or is providing shelter. If the child is not residing in an emergency shelter, the institution should have an adult living with the child complete an income eligibility form indicating that the child is homeless. No further information is required to certify that child's eligibility.

Determining Eligibility for Host Families

A child or family may temporarily reside with another household and still be considered homeless under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11431 et seq.). In these cases, the household size and income of the host family is not taken into consideration in determining the free meal eligibility for the child(ren) designated as homeless by the local education agency's (LEA's) liaison.

Additionally, when a host family applies for free and reduced price meals for their own children, the host family may include the homeless family as household members if the host family provides financial support to the homeless family, such as shelter, utilities, clothing or food. In such cases, the host family must also include any income received by the homeless family. The sponsor would then determine eligibility for the host family in the traditional manner. However, free meal eligibility for the homeless child is based on the documentation provided by the homeless liaison or other source, even when the child is included on the host family's free and reduced price meal application.

Questions pertaining to this memorandum may be directed to Susan Bohuslaw at 860-807-2073 or susan.bohuslaw@ct.gov or Jackie Schipke at 860-807-2123 or jackie.schipke@ct.gov.

CR:sbb

Important: This is a numbered Operational Memorandum that contains important program information. Please read carefully and retain in a binder for your future reference. Operational Memoranda are also posted on the Child Nutrition website at the following link:
<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2626&q=321576>